

CLAIM OR CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A serial data cursor for an analog waveform display of a serial digital data
5 stream comprising:

a cursor representation having a horizontal length equal to a "word-
time" for the serial digital data stream derived from a specified protocol and a
clock recovered from the serial digital data stream; and

means for decoding a portion of the analog waveform display delimited
10 by the cursor representation to present a human readable content display.

2. The serial data cursor as recited in claim 1 wherein the cursor
representation comprises a highlighted box that encompasses the "word-
time" of the analog waveform display.

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3. The serial data cursor as recited in claim 1 wherein the cursor
representation comprises a linear bar that extends along the analog
waveform display for the "word-time".

- 20 4. A serial data cursor for extracting content from a serial digital data stream
comprising:

means for displaying an analog waveform of the serial digital data
stream;

means for displaying a representation of the serial data cursor along

with the analog waveform, the representation having a horizontal length equal to a "word-time" for the serial digital data stream derived from a specified protocol and a clock recovered from the serial digital data stream; and

5 means for decoding a portion of the analog waveform delimited by the representation to provide a display of the content in human readable form.

10 5. The serial data cursor as recited in claim 4 wherein the representation comprises a highlighted box that encompasses the "word-time" of the displayed analog waveform .

15 6. The serial data cursor as recited in claim 4 wherein the representation comprises a linear bar that extends along the displayed analog waveform for the "word-time".

7. A method of using a serial data cursor for extracting content from the analog waveform of a serial digital data stream comprising the steps of:

20 loading a data protocol having parameters for the serial digital data stream;

determining a "word-time" from the parameters and a clock recovered from the serial digital data stream;

displaying the analog waveform together with a representation of the serial data cursor having a length equal to the "word-time"; and

decoding a portion of the analog waveform delimited by the serial data cursor to provide the content in human readable form.

8. The method as recited in claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

- 5 generating a trigger according to a specified characteristic of the serial digital data stream from the parameters; and
- capturing the analog waveform according to the trigger.

9. The method as recited in claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

- 10 comparing the portion with a specified parameter from among the parameters; and

 incrementing the serial data cursor by "bit-time" increments until the portion equals the specified parameter.